Nancy Blaskewicz, President [blaskewicz@wilmington.k12.pa.us](mailto:blaskewicz@wilmington.k12.pa.us)

**Butler-Lawrence-Mercer Reading Council**

Michele Evans, Vice President [michele.evans@zoominternet.net](mailto:michele.evans@zoominternet.net)

Linda Ziegler, Secretary [lziegler@greenville.k12.pa.us](mailto:lziegler@greenville.k12.pa.us)

Mary Campbell, Treasurer

Paula Kerlik, Membership

**Call to Order:**

The Butler-Lawrence-Mercer Reading Council met October 9, 2013 at the Wilmington Middle School Library, in New Wilmington, PA. President Nancy Blaskewicz called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

President Blaskewicz acknowledged the officers: President-Elect Michele Evans, Secretary Linda Ziegler, Government Relations Kim Deniker, and Membership Paula Kerlik.She invited everyone to partake of the buffet and welcomed new members, Maile Garganz and Lori Morrison.

**Officer Reports:**

* The minutes from the April 23, 2013 meeting, the Executive Board meeting on June 19, and the Executive Board meeting on August 19, were emailed to members. There were no corrections or additions. The minutes stand approved.
* The final BLM Reading Council 2013-2014 Budget as approved at the April meeting treasurer's report was presented. The balance as of October 7, 2013 is $3,721.80.The Treasurer’s Report will be filed for audit. KSRA dues will be raised on January 1, 2013.
* Membership Chairman Paula Kerlik reported that BLM has two new members, putting our current total to 45. The council received $520 back from KSRA membership dues.
* Kim Deniker reported that the BLM council contributed the most and best supporting evidence for KSRA to receive the *IRA Advocacy Award* for activities that educate, organize, and activate. During the summer conference, Jesse Moore presented information about House Bill 388, Standards, ESEA Documents, and Title 22: Teacher Rating. Detailed information can be viewed on the KSRA website.
* President Nancy Blaskewicz discussed how Domain 4e: “Teacher engages in seeking out opportunities for leadership roles in professional development . . .” can be fulfilled by being active in the BLM Reading Council and/or KSRA through participating and/or presenting Act 48 programs, and by serving as an officer. She urged members, especially those who have not served, to consider serving as officers for next year. Officer nominations will be accepted at the March meeting.
* Possible programs for this year include *Nutrition* or *Self- Publishing* for November; and a Program on April 1, 2014 by Dr. Ali Dubois, Early Childhood Professor from Westminster College.

**Unfinished Business:**

* BLM Reading Council has been officially chartered, although our official Charter has not been received.
* President Blaskewicz asked for nominations to for the **BLM**. **Community Involvement Grant** from National honor Societies, K-Clubs, or other student service organizations in schools. The BLM Community Involvement Grant Applications should be forwarded to Elizabeth McChesney or Maria Worst.
* Several members brought sketches and ideas for our new council logo. Nancy requested that all ideas should be emailed or given to her before our next meeting so members could vote on their preference. Maria Worst is developing our council brochure.

**New Business:**

* Donna DeMase brought a $90 donation from a disbanded librarian organization that hoped BLM could use the money toward our community projects. President Blaskewicz thanked Donna for the generous contribution.
* Members discussed having monthly door prizes. Mary Ann Wilson motioned to have a “fun” door prize at the first and last meeting for each year. Motion received a second and moved. Donna DeMase won today’s Fall Flowers door prize.
* Our next meeting will be Saturday, November 2, 2013 at the Red Rock Falls Restaurant in Slippery Rock, PA starting at 10:00 a.m.
* The KSRA Conference will be October 18–20, 2013.
* If you are not receiving BLM emails, please send Nancy an email ASAP so she can correct your address.
* The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

**Program:**

The “Literacy Potpourri” Program presented updates in technology, Government Relations topics, NCLB, and Common CoreStandards and Formats for lesson plans. Highlights included the comparison of the Promethean Board with the Smart Board applications such as “Touch & Go” in Word and other programs, “Calibrating mobile features, “Airliner,” and Taking a Pic snapshot to download on compatible laptops. Web sites provided include: teacherspayteachers.com; Scholastic.com; [www.goo.gl](http://www.goo.gl); [www.firstbook.org](http://www.firstbook.org); http//register.first.org/?rgst=Westminster; and <http://bit.ly/SZYtul>.

KSRA reports from Rep. Scott Conklin at the summer conference indicated that, “Things were getting ugly,” with issues of Common Core, Teacher Evaluations, PA State privatized retirements for100% new teachers, moving contributions from 2.5% to of 2% for new hires, and the $30 billion retirement balloon payment due 2018-2019. More information can be found at pahouse.com.

Act 48 was reactivated on July 1, 2013. Teachers, who reach their 5 year mark in 2018, will need 180 Act 48 hours completed by 2018 to retain active certification status.

Under NCLB: There will be a freeze with 2 more years for schools to reach AYP; no ninth grade writing test; Keystones will require passage in Biology, Algebra I, and Reading; and Keystone profiles of district scores will be made public.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Ziegler, Secretary